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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM NO. 190

411800
1 July 1949

SUBJECT: Dependence of the USSR on Imports of Tin.

The production of tin in the USSR falls far short of domestic requirements. The Soviet Union has recently intensified its efforts to procure tin through trade agreements with the UK, Belgium, and the Netherlands to overcome deficiencies. It was understood that the USSR until this year had been unsuccessful in its tin negotiations as practically all tin (metal) is allocated by the Combined Tin Committee. This Committee requires that the applicant give pertinent information covering production, consumption requirements, stocks, and sources of supply, but to date the Soviet Union has refused to furnish such data.

According to one reliable report, the Soviets are now willing to comply with the requirements of the Combined Tin Committee in order to become eligible to obtain tin by allocation. This would indicate that the tin shortage of the USSR has become more critical. Four hundred tons of tin were exported to the USSR from the Netherlands during the first quarter of 1949. However, there is no information to indicate whether this shipment was sanctioned by the Combined Tin Committee or the condition under which it was made. Furthermore, it is not known whether the Netherlands will continue to supply tin to the USSR.

Tin is not on the 1A or 1B list of strategic materials although this was strongly recommended previously by CIA. If the Soviets should now comply with these requirements and be allocated large amounts of tin by the Combined Tin Committee, there would be no way of preventing them from making up their deficit. If, however, tin were included in the 1A list prior to Soviet membership on the Combined Tin Committee, it would permit ECA representatives to bring to the attention of the Western European nations the desirability of preventing tin from being sold to the USSR.

Tin is one of the few metals which is essential in modern war, and which the Soviet Union is unable to produce in sufficient quantity to meet its needs. The principal sources of tin are well known and relatively far away from the USSR. Denial of these sources would serve as a significant restriction on the Soviet war potential.

In addition to the question of tin metal shipments, reported shipments of tin plate and alloys to the USSR will require further consideration since they have an important bearing on the subject.

Note: This memorandum has not been coordinated with the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

SEE REVERSE FOR DECLASSIFICATION ACTION

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State Dept. declassification instructions on file

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control 1411
Recd June 3, 1949. 12:14 pm

FROM: Paris

TO: ECA Administrator

Number: REPTO 4506, June 3, 2 pm

Haffner, strategic material officer, Hague Mission advises Russians have offered buy large quantities Dutch tin and have indicated willingness file statistics with international tin groups if purchase possible. This would make Soviet eligible for membership and subsequent allocations.

Since tin has not been on 1A or 1B list, no method control readily available.

Although tin is strategic material we doubt feasibility present adding 1A list in view export importance this commodity UK and Holland unless US willing to buy for stockpile. Will discuss further with Evan Just on arrival Paris.

Sent Washington REPTO 4506, repeated The Hague REPTO 243, London REPTO 588.

BB:KC

HARRIMAN

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INCOMING AIRGRAM

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FROM: American Embassy
The Hague, Netherlands

CONFIDENTIAL

PREPARED: May 20, 1949

Secty of State, Wash.

RECD: May 26, 1949 1:17 pm

A-487

Reference Department's Confidential Airgram of Dec. 27, 1946 which requested quarterly reports on Netherlands - USSR trade and Embassy's A-101 of Feb. 4, 1949 concerning this trade in fourth quarter and full year of 1948. First quarter 1949 figures, provided by Central Bureau of Statistics at The Hague for use of the Department, are given below:

Netherlands Trade with USSR - First Quarter 1949
(Weight in metric tons; value in 1000 guilders)

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>IMPORTS</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Value</u>
Lumber (especially pine)		5,575	1,856
Hog hair for brushes		10	176
Iron and manganese ore		965	162
Oil seeds		187	132
Prepared furs		-	15
Misc. mineral products (largely asbestos)		16	10
Miscellaneous		-	3
		6,753	2,354

EXPORTS

Pharmaceutical products (largely quinine)	44	3,156
Tin	400	2,282
Lead	765	1,377
Whale Oil	1,010	1,233
Paints varnishes	271	464
Textiles	19	375
Oil acids, soap stocks	150	240
General chemical products	69	114
Precious metals and products	-	16
Books and graphic products	3	15
Miscellaneous*	5	121
	2,736	9,393

*Bur. of Statistics states details may not be given for commercial reasons but this item includes beer, bauxite, essential oils, fertilizers, leather products, etc.

BARUCH

Orig. to Dept.

3 copies Embassy Files

cc: ECA, Paris, The Hague

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INCOMING AIRGRAM

From The Hague, Netherlands
A-101. Feb. 11, 1949

State Department
Washington.

Exports from Netherlands (Weight m.t. value in 1000 guilders)

	<u>October</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>1948</u>
	<u>weight</u>		<u>value</u>
Tin	600		2258

INCOMING AIRGRAM

From - Antwerp, Belgium
March 15, 1949

State Department
Washington

3,200 pigs of Tin from Antwerp on March 12, 1949 for Kalipeda on "S S Pravda"

From Antwerp, Belgium
March 22, 1949

Secretary of State
Washington
A-63 - March 22, 1949

1. S S Kapitan Castello.

Date of departure from Antwerp - Mar. 19, 1949 - To Rostock
Outgoing cargo includes 1,200 ingots of tin. Steindorf

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Incoming Airgram
Department of State

Secret

From: Antwerp, Belgium

Dated: March 22, 1949

Secretary of State,
Washington

A-63, March 22, 1949

Reference IAD-70 and Department's circular airgram dated July 27, 1948,
8:35 a.m., "Soviet Merchant Vessels".

Departures - Antwerp

1. SS Kapitan Castello

Date of departure from Antwerp - March 19, 1949

To - Rostock

Outgoing cargo - includes 1,200 ingots of tin.

Steintorf

File No. 543.1

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